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own GPS system *pg 6*

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Thursday, January 6, 2011

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Film Producer impressed with Aruba Film Festival

Aruba has the infrastructure, we attract international media and our island is beautiful with extremely hospitable people to offer the cinematographic industry.

In was in this context that a meeting was arranged with Richard and Patricia Rionda of Hannibal Pictures of Los Angeles. Richard and Patricia recently chose Aruba for their

New Years vacation.

The world renowned film producers, with an impressive international track record in the film industry are personal friends of Minister Richard Visser. Visser invited the couple to meet his colleague, Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber.

Continued on page 3



Richard and Patricia Rionda with Ministers Visser and Oduber and Jonathan Vieira



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"Warning!" Disposal of old number plates

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Police Force want to advise the Aruban community to properly get rid of all old number plates. Subjects must make sure that after replacing the old number plate, they do not fall into the hands of the wrong people.

The old number plates can still be used for at least three months or even used on a car to commit a theft or a holdup. This can have very bad consequences for the owner of the number plate.

The Aruba Police Force



recommends everyone to keep the old number plate in a safe place and to dispose of it afterwards. The expiration

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

New Venezuela Congress may check Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - Opposition lawmakers took up 40 percent of seats in a new Venezuelan National Assembly yesterday, ending five years of almost unopposed rule by supporters of leftist President Hugo Chavez.

They faced tough battles after Chavez countered the loss of his supermajority in elections last September by taking on special decree powers and seeking to rein in dissent.

Tensions between the two blocks appeared from the start of the session in the polarized nation, marked by shouting and applause from both sides.

"They will not return!" shouted pro-Chavez lawmakers, to which some opposition lawmakers said they had bad news for them -- they had returned.

But a raft of new laws pushed through last month by the then mainly pro-Chavez

assembly were decried as a "coup d'etat" by opposition politicians in the oil-rich South American nation.

Internet content and broadcast media freedoms have been restricted, lawmakers who switch parties face punishment, and the president is entitled to rule by decree for the next 18 months.

This takes Chavez through to 2012, when the 56-year-old former military officer will once again seek re-election.

Chavez supporters still hold 98 seats in the assembly compared with 67 for the opposition, but the newly seated legislature opens up the political landscape.

Opposition parties boycotted 2005 elections, leading to five years of almost uncontested rule by Chavez supporters.

After singing the national anthem the lawmakers yesterday named Fernando Soto Rojas, a 77-year-old former guerrilla from Chavez's United Socialist Party (PSUV) as assembly president.

While Chavez supporters vowed to push on with the socialist projects of the populist president, the opposition insisted its support was increasing.

"You say you have the majority, but only here (in the assembly), not in the street," said opposition deputy Alfonso Marquina.

Opposition and red-clad Chavez supporters demonstrated outside in support of their representation in the assembly.

Chavez late Tuesday called for the parliamentary process to proceed unfettered.

People must respect all legislators because they were elected, but the lawmakers must follow the rules because otherwise this would be war," he said.

Chemical plant blaze at Moerdijk sparks Dutch alert

ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands -- Southern areas of the Netherlands are on the top state of alert after a blaze at a chemical plant near Rotterdam sent out a thick plume of smoke.

The cloud from the fire at Moerdijk was floating north and had reached the city of Dordrecht, Dutch media said.

Some 400,000 liters of carcinogenic material are stored at the Chemie-Pack plant.

There were no reports of casualties and officials said it was unclear if toxic fumes had been released.

The flames were said to be up to 40m (131ft) high and there were reports of repeated, loud explosions.

Residents in Dordrecht were warned to keep windows and doors shut.

Sarah Raymond, a BBC News website reader who lives in Dordrecht, said people in the area were frightened as they were unsure about any potential risks to their health.

"It is quite scary. The sky is thick with black smoke and we



still don't know if it is toxic or not.

"There is a very unpleasant, chemical smell in the air. I could see the chemical site from my window at work this afternoon across the water and I only live two miles from there. But we have not been given any information from the authorities and there is no number to call to find out more. It is frightening."

The Dutch government set up a co-ordination center for emergency services and south-

ern areas of the province of South Holland were placed on their highest state of alert.

Chemie-Pack, which is about 40km (25 miles) south of the port of Rotterdam, processes and packs products for the chemical industry, the company says on its website.

All 50 Chemie-Pack staff were safe, according to local officials.

A Shell refinery in the Moerdijk industrial zone was not affected by the fire, a spokesman said.

Several die in Guadeloupe floods after torrential rains

LES ABYMES, Guadeloupe - At least four people have died after torrential rains on the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.

Authorities say that those who died were killed in Les Abymes, north of the capital, Pointe-a-Pitre.

Some 20cm (7.9in) of rain have fallen across parts of the island over the last two days.

A French government spokesman said that President Nicolas Sarkozy had expressed "solidarity" with the victims' families.

AFP reports that the four who died were killed when the off-road vehicle they were



travelling in was swept away as the driver attempted to cross a flooded bridge.

A fifth person is reported to be missing after the heavy rains

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Film Producer impressed with Aruba Film Festival

Continued from page 1



Kevin Spacey den película Casino Jack



Richard Rionda & Antonio Banderas "Casino Jack."

Together with our tourism advisers and the producers of the Aruba Film Festival they met to discuss how they could work together.

Richard Rionda has produced for the American as well as international markets, such as "The Big Bang," and

He has worked with famous artists like Antonio Banderas, Robert Dinero, Al Pacino, 50 cents, Bruce Willis and Kevin Spacey, just to mention a few.

Rionda finances his own films and later sells them to renowned agencies who distribute these internationally.

Rionda fell in love with Aruba and has expressed an interest in helping Aruba with her next Film Festival to make this event even more successful. He was impressed with the success of our first Festival which was graced with the presence of the illustrious Richard Gere.

Both ministers were pleased to have had this encounter with the Rionas and hopes that our friendship with others in the film industry in Los Angeles will enable us to attract more artists of this caliber and more new films to choose for the Aruba Film Festival as the venue to launch their new films.

Agreement reached on new Afghan police training mission

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Ministers will discuss plans to send a police training mission to Afghanistan tomorrow, the first cabinet meeting of the New Year, it was re-

ports.

Ministers will discuss a training mission involving 350 people, which will be largely based in the northern province of Konduz. It bases its claims

on sources in The Hague.

The minority cabinet, made up of the VVD and CDA, supports sending a small mission to help train police and military officers.

Boney M's Farrell died of heart disease

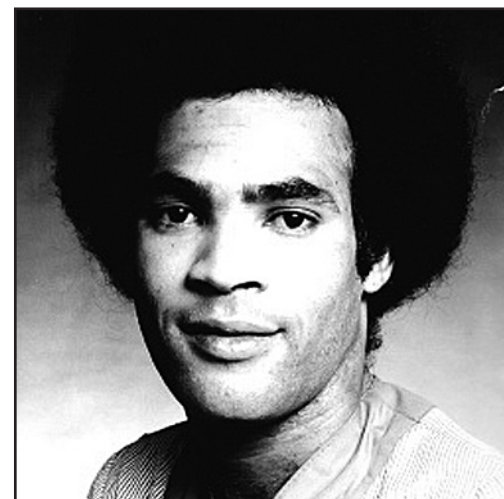
THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Boney M member Bobby Farrell's recent death was due to heart disease, Russian officials have announced.

Farrell, 61, was discovered dead in his St. Petersburg hotel room on Dec. 30, after he failed to respond to a wake-up call.

"It was not a suspicious death. Heart disease was the cause," Sergei Kapitanov, a representative of St. Petersburg's branch of Russia's Investigative Committee, said yesterday, nearly a week after the vocalist and dancer's body was found by hotel staffers.

The death is not being pursued as a criminal matter, he added.

According to his agent, John Seine, Farrell had recently complained of breathing problems.



Minister Donner visits former Netherlands Antilles



Dutch Minister J.P.H. Donner

ORANJESTAD -- Dutch Minister J.P.H. Donner for the Interior and Kingdom Relations will commence a visit to the six former Antillean islands today. The purpose of the visit is to familiarize with the various islands.

Besides the three countries, St. Maarten, Aruba and Curaçao, Minister Donner will visit the three public entities of Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire. Donner is the first Minister to visit the Caribbean Netherlands after the constitutional restructuring of 10-10-

10.

Minister Donner is scheduled to arrive in Saba today, January 6th, will visit St. Eustatius tomorrow, January 7th continuing on to Bonaire on Monday, January 10th.

Afterwards he will visit the three other autonomous islands within the Dutch Kingdom, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten.

The Minister and his delegation returns to the Netherlands on Thursday January 13th from Curaçao.

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There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikky Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when visiting

Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Paul have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while providing a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

November is the month to get acquainted with Nikky Beach as they are offering an introductory dinner special of only \$15 for a three-course meal or a different Entrée de Jour each day of the week for only \$10. This is available from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., so you can finish up an afternoon spent on the beach, catch a meal after a dive with the ad-

jacent SCUBA shop, or savor your supper along with one of the most spectacular locations to watch our amazing Aruban sunsets.

Jan and Paul have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

Some extremely interesting items on the menu captured



our interest along with very moderate prices; aside from the November special you can expect an a la carte tab that will add to your enjoyment. Their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that reveals expertise in several notable cuisines; a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Paul explained they offer a customized Departure Day Package that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal,

drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Paul. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeacharuba.com.

Archbishop, procession for William and Kate's wedding



LONDON, England (AFP) - Prince William and his fiancée Kate Middleton yesterday released hotly-anticipated details about their April 29 wedding, including that the Archbishop of Canterbury will marry them.

Clarence House, the prince's office, also announced that the newlyweds will make a procession by horse-drawn carriage to

Buckingham Palace for a private reception hosted by Queen Elizabeth II.

"Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton have made more decisions on their upcoming wedding," Clarence House said in a statement, which was first released in a series of messages on Twitter.

Middleton will travel to the service at Westminster Abbey by car through some of London's most historic sites including The Mall, Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall and Parliament Square, it said. The service will start at 11:00 a.m. (1000 GMT).

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the head of the Church of England and leader of the world's Anglicans, will marry the couple.

The Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, will give the address.

The Dean of Westminster, John Hall, the abbey's senior cleric, will conduct the service.

After tying the knot, William and his bride will proceed by horse-drawn carriage from the abbey to Buckingham Palace where the queen will host a private reception, Clarence House said.

William's father Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, will host a private dinner in the evening "followed by dancing", it added.

There was no immediate comment from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Palace office.

Other details including who will make Middleton's dress and where the couple will spend their honeymoon are yet to be released.

The wedding is the biggest royal event in Britain since William's parents Charles and the then-Lady Diana Spencer married in 1981 at St Paul's Cathedral.

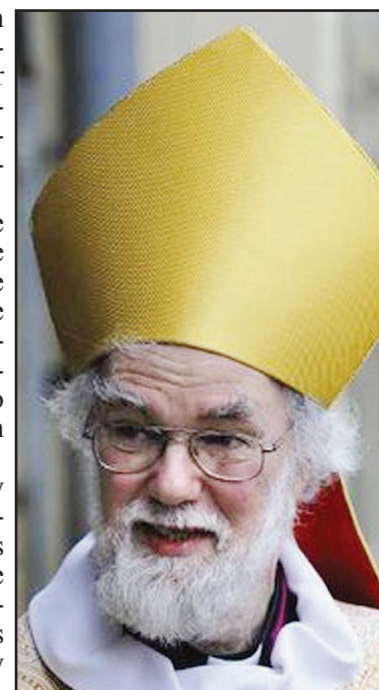
William and Kate, both 28, announced their engagement on November 16 after an on-off, eight-year courtship that began at St Andrews University in Scotland.

The prince, second in line to the throne and the supreme governorship of the Church of England, gave Middleton the priceless diamond and sapphire engagement ring belonging to princess Diana, who died in a car crash in Paris in 1997.

There have been security concerns about the ceremony after Charles and his second wife Camilla were attacked in their car by student protesters during riots against a rise in university tuition fees in December.

Prime Minister David Cameron said earlier yesterday, however, that the wedding was one of a series of major events in 2011 and 2012 that would "see the eyes of the world focused on Britain as never before."

"A royal wedding, her majesty's diamond jubilee and of course the London



Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams

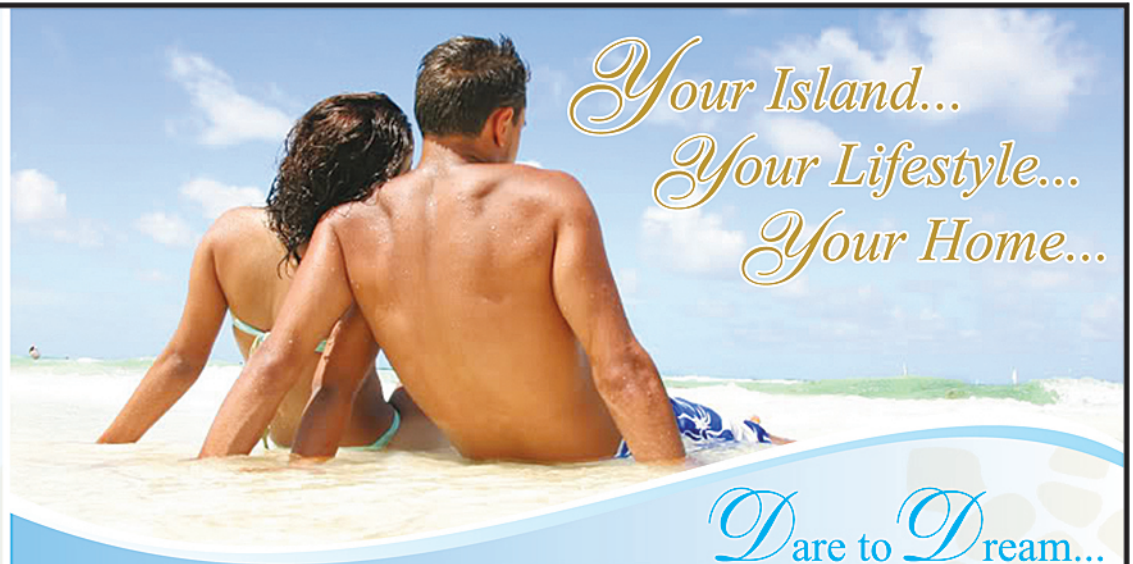
Olympic and Paralympic Games offer us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, not just for national pride and celebration, but also to promote this country as the perfect tourist destination," he said as he announced a new tourism drive.

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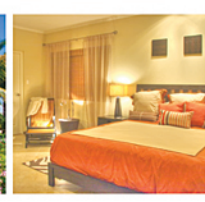
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Christmas is the season for giving Crown Electronics & Furniture donates to Methodist Christ Church for Meals on Wheels foundation, thanks to its Face Book fans



Meals on Wheels is an organization which exists for 48 years already. Their goal is to help those in need. Their aim is to offer a hot meal to the less fortunate twice a week. They run on donations, which sometimes can become difficult for the foundation to keep open, but members have fought for all these years to keep the Meals on Wheels running.

Crown Electronics & Furniture, always ready to help the Aruban community, decided to help the charity with this beautiful gesture. During the holiday season, Facebook social networkers could visit the FB page of Crown Electronics and "Become a Fan" with a simple click of the mouse. This automatically connected them to the San Nicolas foundation "Meals on Wheels." For every person who became a fan on their Facebook page, the establishment donated Afls 1 to Meals on Wheels.

The amount collected: The nice sum of Afl. 8,648.

Mrs. Diana King, the person in charge of the daily operations of the foundation, received the check from Crown & Electronics & Furniture executive Alex Cybul.

Now the foundation can continue with their good work. Their distributions go according to a list of persons in need and also by petition of the Department of Social Affairs. The foundation has a very big kitchen in the back of the church completely equipped for cooking large meals. Afterwards with the help of volunteers the meals are delivered by a van.

Crown electronics & Furniture and Meals on Wheels extend their gratitude towards the Aruban community for their contribution to this beautiful cause

Sci-Tech

'Bad' science still rampant in US justice system



Cornelius Dupree Jr., center, raises his hands in celebration with his lawyer Nina Morrison, left, and attorney Barry Scheck in Dallas

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The story of an American man cleared of a rape and robbery conviction by DNA evidence after spending 30 years in jail made headlines across the world on Tuesday.

But despite advances in science and technology, such exonerations are rare, and experts say the US criminal justice system remains riddled with problems that arise from outdated practices and, quite simply, bad science.

Perhaps the worst offender is the police lineup. Research shows that 75 percent of all wrongful convictions that are later cleared by DNA evidence start with eyewitness mistakes.

That was the case for Cornelius Dupree, who was fingered in 1979 by a rape victim who incorrectly picked him out of a photo array.

Texas District Judge Don Adams on Tuesday declared Dupree, 51, "free to go" after serving more than 30 years behind bars.

"Cornelius Dupree spent the prime of his life behind bars because of mistaken identification that probably would have been avoided if the best practices now used in Dallas had been employed," said attorney Barry Scheck.

"I actually divide forensic science into two big camps," said Michael Saks, law profes-

sor at Arizona State University. "There is the camp that is using real science that is borrowed from basic science, such as chemistry and DNA.

"On the other hand you have got the kind of -- well, my kindest word for it is almost-science or wannabe science, and that includes handwriting, fingerprints, fire and arson investigation and forensic dentistry."

Arson science in particular has made waves lately in the criminal justice community, as Scheck and other legal experts have attempted to use the case of an executed Texas man to showcase flaws in the death penalty.

Several fire science experts reviewed evidence in the case of Cameron Todd Willingham, who was put to death in 2004 for setting the house blaze that killed his three small daughters. The experts found no proof of arson.

However, attempts to get the Texas governor to acknowledge mistakes may have been made, as well as a recent bid to have a Houston judge rule on whether the death penalty is unconstitutional because it leads to wrongful convictions, have been shut down by local authorities and courts.


In all, just 266 people, a majority of them African-Americans, have been exonerated by DNA evidence since 1989, according to the Innocence Project.

"The number of people that are exonerated that we know about are tiny," said University of Michigan professor Samuel Gross, adding that when crime evidence goes beyond the bounds of DNA, convictions become even harder to overturn.

"The problem with arson cases is that if the defendant wasn't guilty it is not because someone else did it, it is because there was no crime and that is a hard thing to prove in a lot of cases," he said.

And even when a bulk of evidence exists, pure science is rarely enough, according to Gail Jaspen, chief deputy director of Virginia Department of Forensics.

"Evidence by itself doesn't prove somebody's innocence," said Jaspen. "Because the (forensic science) department doesn't have the ability to exonerate anybody. Only the court or the governor does."



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Genes predict hair colour, say scientists



PARIS (AFP) - Samples of DNA can give a high-probability estimate of someone's hair colour, a finding that will be a boon for forensic scientists, according to a new study published on Tuesday.

DNA taken from blood, sperm, saliva or skin cells can determine with more than 90-percent accuracy whether a person has red hair or black hair, and with an accuracy of more than 80 percent as to whether their hair is blond or brown, say its authors.

The technique, published in the European journal Human Genetics, can even differentiate between hair colours that are similar, such as red and reddish blond and blond and dark blond.

"That we are now making it possible to predict different hair colours from DNA represents a major breakthrough because, so far, only red hair colour, which is rare, could be estimated from DNA," said Manfred Kayser, a forensic molecular biology professor at Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

The research is based on 13 telltale signatures of DNA in 11 genes, which matched hair colours in hundreds of Europeans. It was based on hair on the head, and further research is needed to predict the colour of body hair.

The scientists believe that a standardised DNA test for predicting hair colour could emerge in the near future, adding powerfully to the forensic toolkit.

Japan eyes building its own GPS system

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan is considering launching new satellites to establish its own global positioning system (GPS) in a bid to reduce its reliance on the US navigation network, officials said on Wednesday.

In September, Japan launched a rocket carrying its first satellite intended to improve GPS systems widely used by Japanese motorists for navigation as well as by aviation and maritime operators.

The government's space development strategy headquarters, headed by Prime Minister Naoto Kan, is now discussing plans to launch additional satellites, said an

official.

"There is a proposal that our country should secure its own GPS as it is now fully relying on the US system," the official said.

"The new system may also open our opportunity for marketing GPS services to other Asian countries," he said, adding that the government plans to reach a final decision by August.

The Yomiuri Shimbun daily reported on Wednesday that Japan had decided to launch six to seven new satellites to establish its own GPS system by 2014 and 2015 to cover the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Germany's terminally-ill 'Dr. Death' to put own body on show



German so-called plastinator Gunther von Hagens poses with a preserved human arm at his "Plastinarium" workplace in Guben, eastern Germany in May. The German anatomist dubbed "Doctor Death", who has turned stomachs worldwide preserving and displaying dead bodies, says he is terminally ill and plans to exhibit his own corpse. Gunther von Hagens, 65, told the Bild mass circulation daily he is suffering from incurable Parkinson's disease and intends to have his dead body put on display to "welcome" visitors to his exhibition. "My plastinated corpse will then stand in a welcoming pose at the entrance of my exhibition. I want to be able to welcome my guests even after I am dead." Hagens is no stranger to controversy. His latest wheeze was to offer preserved body parts for sale in a so-called "supermarket of death." In a process invented by Hagens, the body parts are skinned and preserved with a synthetic resin, laying bare the naked muscles, nerves and tendons underneath.

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Health & Living

TB patients face higher lung cancer risk: study



**disseminated tuberculosis,
metastatic lung cancer**

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AFP) — Tuberculosis patients are 11 times more likely than the average to develop lung cancer, according to a new study published by a group of Taiwanese scientists.

The researchers followed more than 700,000 randomly selected individuals over a period of six years, including 4,480 diagnosed with tuberculosis, they said in a statement.

"The incidence of lung cancer in these tuberculosis patients was 11 times greater

than people without tuberculosis," said one of the researchers, Chen Chih-yi, from China Medical University in the central Taiwan city of Taichung.

"This study suggests that it is also important to watch out for lung cancer prevention in the campaign against tuberculosis."

The findings, published in the January issue of the Journal of Thoracic Oncology, support the notion of a link between tuberculosis and lung cancer, which has so far been suspected but not definitively proved.

"Tuberculosis is a very common chronic disease worldwide. People in developing and undeveloped areas suffer from it mostly," said Chen.

"It is well known that lung cancer is causally associated with smoking. Less attention has been focused on whether people with tuberculosis are also at higher risk of developing lung cancer."

Watch grandpa's gait for longevity clues: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) — If you want to know how long grandpa is going to live, check his pace of walking. A report appearing in Journal of the American Medical Association found a strong correlation between walking speed and expected survival rates for persons over 65.

The analysis from nine studies between 1986 and 2000 showed faster walking speed among older adults was associated with increased length of survival.

The average gait speed of the 34,485 participants was 0.92 meters (three feet) per second. But analyzing results over periods from six to 21 years, the University of Pittsburgh researchers found the faster ones lived longer.

"Walking requires energy, movement control, and support and places demands on multiple organ systems, including the heart, lungs, circulatory, nervous, and musculoskeletal systems," the researchers wrote. "Slowing gait may reflect both damaged systems and a high energy cost of walking."



All studies had participants walk at their usual pace and from a standing start. The walk distance varied from eight feet (2.4 meters) to six meters (19 feet).

"Predicted years of remaining life for each sex and age increased as gait speed increased," the researchers said.

"Gait speeds of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) per second or higher consistently demonstrated survival that was longer than expected by age and sex alone. In this older adult population the relationship of gait speed with remaining years of life was consistent across age groups."

The researchers found that gait speed was associated with differences in the probability

of survival at all ages in both sexes, but was especially notable after age 75.

"Gait speed has potential to be implemented in practice, using a stop watch and a four-meter (13 feet) course...."

Gait speed may be a simple and accessible indicator of the health of the older person."

In an editorial accompanying the report, Matteo Cesari of the Universita Campus Bio-Medico, Rome, said that because no evidence definitively supports the hypothesis that gait speed improvements are associated with better health-related outcomes, gait speed should not be considered as a primary target for interventions at present.

"It represents a global marker of health status, and an optimal secondary and complementary outcome to support research findings, clinical decisions, or both aimed at modifying more pragmatic end points," he wrote.

"Future research will be needed to determine whether gait speed has the potential to change the way in which a patient is defined as geriatric."

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Suicidal New York man leaps, but saved by garbage pile

NEW YORK CITY — A would-be suicide jumper in New York was alive after leaping from a ninth-floor window but landing in a giant heap of garbage uncollected since the city's massive snowstorm a week ago.

Vangelis Kapatos, 26, was hospitalized this week in critical but stable condition after jumping from his apartment on West 45th Street, authorities

said. Sanitation workers have not collected trash since the December 26 storm dumped more than a foot and a half of snow on the city. Mounds of garbage several feet high line many sidewalks.

"Everybody is complaining that the trash hasn't been picked up," Kapatos' aunt said. "But me, I'm thankful that it was never picked up."

A must see while on Aruba! The "Fontein Caves"

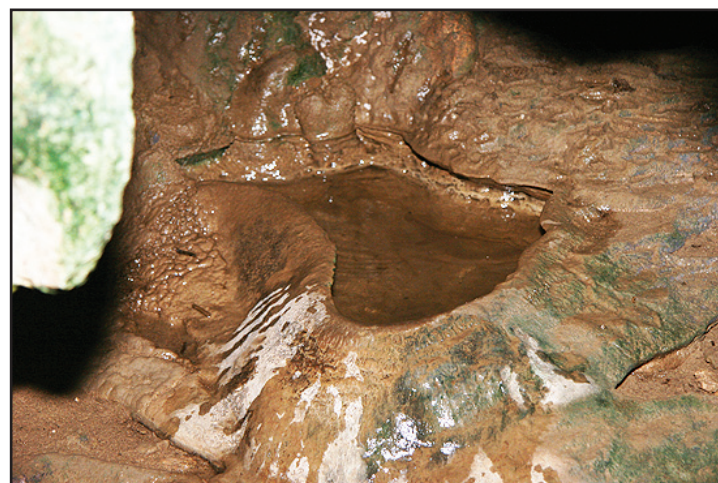


Around the world, tourists do a lot of site-seeing. That's the way they learn about other cultures and their histories. Aruba offers a great sanctuary to lay in the sun and get a tan, but there is much more to this small island.

One of the island's treasures are the "Fontein" caves located in Aruba's National Park, Parke Arikok.

Aruba has a lot of caves, some are small others very big, some are under the sea others above the sea, in some of them Indian drawings were found while in others only a few fossils. Every cave has its own distinct uniqueness which sets it apart. The "Fontein" Cave (fountain cave) got this name because there is a spring water source in the cave. Years ago when there was no tap water the Aruban community got water out of the "Fontein" Cave. For safety they first boiled the water just to be sure the bacteria were killed. The area around the cave is very green because of the water as it is not only found inside the cave but also outside. It's nice to walk in the surrounding area where one can see the fishes in the water, birds in the trees in complete serenity. The "Fontein" Cave was made by the power of the sea, a little bit strange when you see the sea 300 meters away from the cave. But Aruba has changed and is still changing, just like the whole world does.

The "Fontein" Cave is formed by coral, limestone and minerals. When visiting the cave you will think it is just formed by rocks, but once inside one can see how special it



is as it changes all the time. In the cave there are a lot of bats, the long nose and long tongue bat.

In the "Fontein" Cave Indian drawings were found, only at the beginning of the cave, meaning they used the cave only for protection against the weather. The drawings are probably made with iron oxide (extracted from coral) and from juice of the Brazilian tree. The rangers of Arikok National Park are protecting the drawings really good, because some of them have been completely dam-

aged by the sea wind and humans. The cave is in a nature area, full of Aruba's flora and fauna. Sometimes the rangers catch snakes and they put them for a few days in a terrarium so tourists can see what lives on Aruba. You can visit the cave everyday from 9:30 a.m. till 4:15 p.m. And for the real cave freak, together with a ranger you can walk up to 250 meters into the cave.

"Fontein" Cave is one of Aruba natural wonders and is well worth a visit. Don't forget your camera!



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Aruba Bank gives away prizes with "Shop, Swipe & Win"

Harold Semeleer won 5,000 by just swiping with his card



Recently, Aruba Bank celebrated the end of its campaign, "Shop, Swipe and Win." Everyone who used their debit or credit card during the campaign were eligible.

During the final raffle held at Aruba Bank Camacuri thru an electronic system and in presence of a notary, 16 winners were picked.

The lucky winners were: Rudolfo Arends, Yinnel

Arache, Walter van der Biezen and Anny Salas, who won a Christmas basket; Julio Rodriguez, Karen Pearson-Harms, Izaira Mansur and Brenda Every all won a supermarket gift certificate; Hugo Osorio and Carlos Wernet won a Flora Market gift certificate, Germaine Geerman-Wever and Edwin Comenencia won a Blackberry, Carol Croes won an iPad, Julio van der Biezen

won a laptop, Dennis Croes won a flatscreen t.v., and Harold Semeleer won the first prize: Afl 5.000.

Afterwards Dande group Tipico Honkaponka entertained all those present with goodwill wishes for the year 2011.

Aruba Bank extends its gratitude to all its clients and wishes the Aruban community a prosperous 2011.



Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist.

Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers. Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese. Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup

of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon. All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

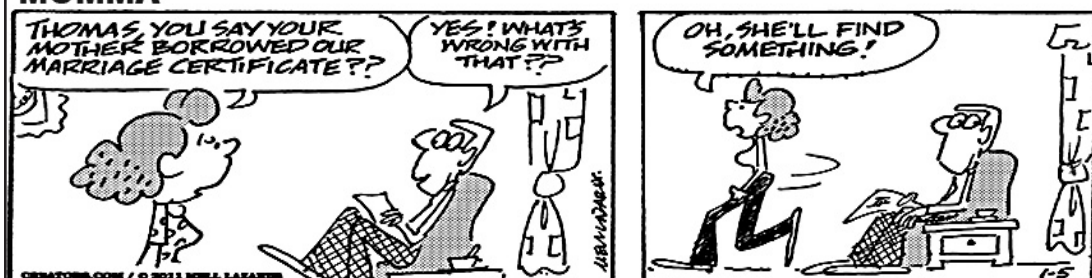
For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



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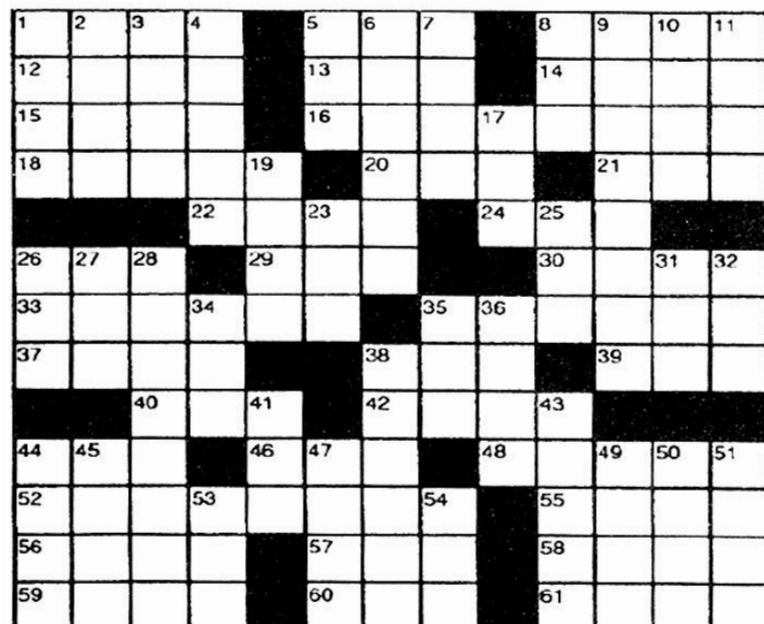
ACROSS

1. Sign
5. Be
8. Vipers
12. Bird of peace
13. Precious stone
14. Jump
15. Lyric poems
16. Proof, in court
18. Hires
20. Anger
21. Actor Danson
22. Land
24. Grief
26. Santa _____
29. King topper
30. "A Man _____ Woman":
2 wds.
33. Famed silversmith
35. Package
37. Lacking courage
38. Make weak
39. Lamprey
40. Clear profit
42. Garden of gardens

44. Droop
46. Unit of corn
48. Long stories
52. Mimics
55. Female horse
56. Sup
57. Single
58. Dueling sword
59. Brink
60. Encountered
61. Expensive
5. Birthday number
6. Abuse
7. Arabian prince
8. Malt drink
9. Paragraph part
10. Step
11. Hurried
17. Morning moisture
19. Float aloft
23. Sherbet
25. Rower's need
26. Limb
27. Born
28. Retaliating
31. Sandra _____
32. Entirely
34. Piece out
35. Mat
36. Monkeys
38. Unruffled
41. Social gathering
43. Identified
44. Lateral half
45. Among
47. Smallest particle
49. Yawn
50. Vicinity
51. Prophet
53. Popular shirt
54. Regulate

DOWN

1. Scent
2. Method
3. Not odd
4. Cozy places
5. Birthday number
6. Abuse
7. Arabian prince
8. Malt drink
9. Paragraph part
10. Step
11. Hurried
17. Morning moisture
19. Float aloft
23. Sherbet
25. Rower's need
26. Limb
27. Born
28. Retaliating
31. Sandra _____
32. Entirely
34. Piece out
35. Mat
36. Monkeys
38. Unruffled
41. Social gathering
43. Identified
44. Lateral half
45. Among
47. Smallest particle
49. Yawn
50. Vicinity
51. Prophet
53. Popular shirt
54. Regulate



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Telephone 100

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582-5447
In San Nicolas
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Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Renault suspends officials over 'electric car secrets'



PARIS (AFP) – French automaker Renault, staking its future on electric cars, has suspended three senior managers in what a source said was a move linked to the suspected leaking of secrets on the new vehicles.

Source told AFP the suspensions were linked to the alleged leaking of company secrets. "It centres on the electric vehicle," the source close to the car maker told AFP.

Renault has staked its future on electric cars as automakers face up to rising demand for more environmentally friendly modes of transport, aiming to mass produce them for the general market.

The suspensions were the latest in a series of industrial espionage scandals to hit France's huge and strategically important auto industry.

Sources said that those suspended had all headed electric vehicles projects and one was a member of the company's management committee, a 30-strong panel of top managers

headed by chief executive Carlos Ghosn.

The suspension without pay of the staff is a first step towards possible disciplinary action. Renault plans to launch electric versions of its Fluence model priced at about 25,000 euros (34,000 dollars) and its Kangoo Express for about 20,000 euros in mid-2011, and its smaller Twizy and Zoe models in late 2011 and 2012.

It forecasts that electric cars will make up 10 percent of the market by 2020. Along with its Japanese partner Nissan, it is investing 200 million euros a year in the programme.

Nissan has already launched an all-electric car for the mass market, the Leaf, in Japan and the United States, where it sold out on pre-orders. The Leaf is set to be launched in select European markets in early 2011.

Other major car makers are in on the act, preparing to launch electric cars.

In an earlier scandal in 2007, Renault brought charges for industrial espionage after a magazine published pictures and plans for two of new models it was developing.

Industrial espionage scandals have also struck French tyre maker Michelin and auto parts maker Valeo.

China vows to help Europe beat debt crisis



MADRID, Spain (AFP) –

Chinese Vice Premier Li Ke-qiang backed Europe in its sovereign debt battle this week, starting a three-nation tour by promising to buy more Spanish government bonds.

Li, widely tipped to be the next premier, delivered a significant vote of confidence given China's world record foreign reserves of 2.648 trillion dollars (2.0 trillion euros), much of it in euros.

On his visit to Spain, Germany and Britain he is supporting Europe's recovery efforts and seeking to soothe global market fears of a debt quagmire spreading from Greece and Ireland to Portugal and even Spain.

In a meeting on Wednesday with Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, he "expressed China's confidence in the Spanish economy, as shown by the country's investment in Spanish public debt," said a communique from the Spanish premier's office.

Spain's central and regional

governments and its banks need to raise about 290 billion euros in gross debt in 2011, including rolling over existing bonds that expire.

That opens the risk of "funding stress" as rising rates make it increasingly expensive for the state to raise money, Moody's Investors Service warned last month.

Any EU or international bailout for Spain would be far bigger than anything seen to date in Europe -- its economy is twice that of Greece, Ireland and Portugal combined.

China's help could be important.

While China's top leaders were not seeking to single-handedly resolve the debt crisis, the investment in Spanish debt made sense, said Ken Peng, a Beijing-based economist for Citigroup.

Spanish bonds were delivering high yields and "might not be a bad investment," he added.

Credit Suisse economist in Beijing, Tao Dong, said that

stabilising the economy in the EU -- the top destination for China's exports -- was in Beijing's own economic interests.

The rate demanded by investors in return for buying Spanish debt eased significantly with 10-year bond yields down to 5.278 percent from 5.317 percent at week's close.

After their talks, the Chinese and Spanish leaders ratified a 7.1-billion-dollar (5.2-billion-euro) deal between Spanish energy giant Repsol and China's biggest oil group Sinopec, the Spanish industry ministry said.

Under the deal, already cleared December 28 last year by Repsol shareholders, the Spanish group sold 40 percent of its Brazilian affiliate to Sinopec.

Li and Zapatero also signed about 10 other private commercial contracts, including for the purchase of Spanish cured ham and olive oil, and a handful of state deals, the total value of the contracts signed was 7.5 billion dollars (5.7 billion euros).

The Spanish government has slashed spending and says it is on track to meet its promise to lower the public deficit from 11.1 percent of annual output in 2009 to the European Union limit of 3.0 percent by 2013.

The economy, the EU's fifth biggest, slumped into recession during the second half of 2008 as the global financial meltdown compounded the collapse of the once-booming property market.

Opel finalises change to stock corporation



Nick Reilly, CEO of German carmaker Opel

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – German carmaker Opel has finalised its transformation into a stock corporation under German law following approval by a commercial court, the company said.

Nick Reilly, chief executive of Opel and its British sister brand Vauxhall, described the move as "a further step in implementing our plan for the future, with which we will steer the company back into the black."

The new statute "estab-

lishes a level playing field vis-a-vis major automotive competitors and further elevates standards of corporate governance and management accountability," he added in a statement.

The company was officially registered as Adam Opel AG which Reilly said was the "appropriate legal form for a major industrial player the size of Opel with more than 40,000 employees in Europe."

US parent company General Motors will own all of

Opel's shares and will include its earnings in GM's overall results.

Opel is based in Rueselsheim, western Germany, and the move was approved by a court in nearby Darmstadt.

No changes to the car maker's management structure were planned, the statement said.

Opel was on the brink of bankruptcy last year before it drafted a restructuring plan that included the elimination of 8,000 jobs.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

| | | |
|--------|---------|-------|
| LAW | CACHE | STEM |
| AGE | ALOES | TORE |
| DIT | MELEE | REST |
| LL | NEST | PASTE |
| EEKER | SALON | |
| NEAR | BALDEST | |
| PAID | ELITE | APE |
| ENT | SPADE | WREN |
| AT | PEACE | WAND |
| REBLES | STAR | |
| RANTS | RINSED | |
| LEAN | THAT | OLE |
| ORN | ACRID | ALEC |
| VID | SUEDE | LACK |
| EES | HEWED | ARTS |

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Popular Pizza Bob's is perfect for casual dining



A popular hangout with Eagle Beach temporary residents



Swedish sisters Sharla and Carolina are huge fans of Pizza Bob's

Everyone has those nights when they want an easy, casual meal, and among denizens of the Eagle Beach area, their favorite place for fun food and friendly surroundings is Pizza Bob's, right next to the Bucuti Beach resort parking lot.

Maitre D' Alex adores welcoming his abundant repeat clientele, being five minutes walk from most of Aruba's timeshares has made the place a prime eatery among families with healthy appetites. Their pizza is modeled on the classic thin crust typical of Chicago's Southside, and the secret recipe of a famous pizzeria since 1957, which we dare not name as we might get whacked!

While checking out the locale, Alex introduced us to Sharla and Caroline from Sweden, frequent visitors to Aruba who can't imagine a vacation without several dinner stops at Pizza Bob's. This was the general consensus of all the guests who we spoke with during our time there; all make it a multiple meal choice during their vacation. "I have one couple from Germany who eat here every night of their vacation," confessed Alex, "they are

like family to us!"

Aside from the famous pizzas, the menu features very tasty barbecue, a personal favorite of Caroline, lasagna, Fresh Vegetable Linguini and huge salads that can be shared by two, plus a personal favorite for dessert, "Death by Chocolate." They do sport an air-conditioned dining room, which is popular at lunch time to escape the tropical mid-day sun, but nighttime is the right time to enjoy their outdoor terrace and great music from noted island singer Tommy every Wednesday and Saturday night, which converts the eatery into a congenial hangout until closing time.

If you love your pizza and island ambiance, Pizza Bob's is the perfect place for a fun night. Open for lunch and dinner every day from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and they deliver to all the resorts in the Eagle Beach area. Call 588 9040 ext. 790 for delivery or to pre-order. They also feature a daily happy hour from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. when you can enjoy a large size pizza for the price of a medium and drinks are 2-for-1; what a deal!

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Madrid's Prado suffers drop in visitor numbers



MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Madrid's prestigious Prado Museum said that visitor numbers were down slightly last year despite some star exhibi-

tions, such as one by English master J.M.W. Turner.

Some 2.732 million people visited the Prado in 2010, down from 2.764 million the previous year and the first decline since it opened a new ultra-modern wing in 2007.

The management had expected such a drop, blaming it on the economic crisis.

The Prado is currently showing the first major retrospective in Spain of French painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir, an exhibition that runs until February 6.

From June 22 until September 19 last year, the museum staged an exhibition entitled "Turner and the Masters", which explored the links between the 19th-century Joseph Mallord William Turner and his artistic forebears.

Another of Madrid's great museums, the Reina Sofia, saw a slight increase in visitors last year, drawing some 2.313 million, up 226,117 from 2009.

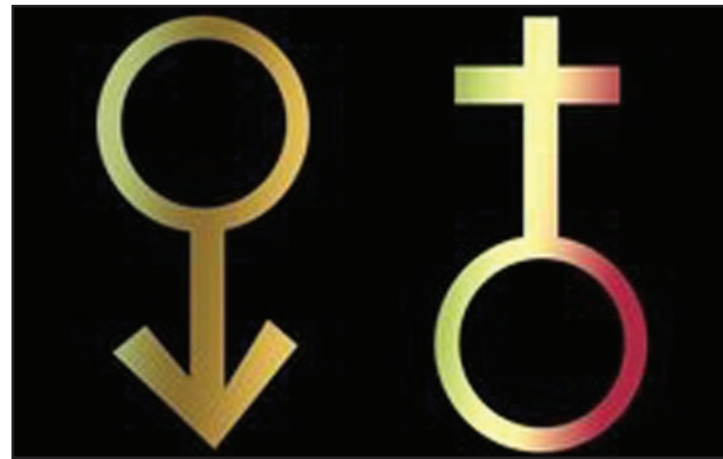
It's in the genes, suggests Czech transsexual 'family'

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AFP)— Dominik was a woman, Andrea was a man, and now after switching their genders they are a couple watching the son Dominik gave birth to, turn into a woman.

Fifteen years ago, Ilona Tomeckova, a woman living in eastern Czech Republic, left her husband and young son to move to Prague and become Dominik Sejda, a man, Czech Television said in a report on its website.

After becoming a man, Dominik found it hard to find a partner for years, but two years ago he met Andrea Kajzarova, another transsexual who, before a sex change, was a man named Tomas Kajzar, a body-builder.

"She had a man's genitals when we met, but she had a neutral name and looked rather like a woman," Dominik told Czech TV, adding he knew about three similar couples in



the Czech Republic.

"Dominik has such personal charm that I told myself after about four months: yes, this is the guy I want to spend my life with," said the tall and still powerfully-built Andrea.

After meeting Andrea, Dominik decided to resume contacts with his former family, only to learn in awe that his son Radim was in the process of turning into a girl named Viktoria.

"I found a sexologist in May, she sent me to different checks, including genetics. My diagnosis was always 'transsexual'," said Radim, whose biological mother Dominik now insists on calling her son "Viki."

"We saw each other in May when we celebrated our birthdays together. The guys there made quite a few passes at her, so she looks good," Dominik said.

Vladimir Putin may give name to Kyrgyz mountain



BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AFP) — Already known for his flinty gaze and rock-hard muscles, the Russian prime minister could find himself immor-

talised as the name of a mountain peak in Kyrgyzstan.

The government of the Central Asian state has put forward a bill proposing that an as-yet unnamed peak in the Tian Shan mountain range be called the Peak of Vladimir Putin, a government spokesman told AFP on Tuesday.

At 4,446 meters (14,586 feet), the peak towers over its diminutive inspiration.

Prime Minister Almazbek Atambayev has signed the bill which must then be approved by the parliament.

Putin himself has spoken against a cult of personality, al-

though his portrait along with President Dmitry Medvedev hangs above the desks of many Russian officials.

Kyrgyzstan already has a mountain named after the first Russian president Boris Yeltsin, and analysts said the current leadership wanted to emphasize its closeness to Russia.

The Central Asian state was wracked by unrest in 2010 which saw the ousting of the former president and ethnic rioting that left hundreds dead. The country recently elected a new coalition government led by Atambayev.

Lithuania launches national perfume

VILNIUS.Lithuania (AFP) — Lithuania is pioneering a new type of national symbol to convey the character of the ex-Soviet Baltic state in a fragrant way with a bottle of perfume.

Lithuania's foreign ministry has already sent bottles of the new fragrance to all ambassadors accredited to Vilnius.

The project with olfactory appeal is "a good example of how to communicate Lithuania to the public in an innovative way," according to a foreign ministry statement.

"We wanted to create something special, representing Lithuania and the Lithuanian

character," Mindaugas Stongvilas, an expert in emotional communication behind the project told the Lithuanian daily Vilniaus diena.

The perfume "Lithuania" is a blend of sandalwood, cedar and musk intended to connote the Indo-European origins of the Lithuanian language as well as Lithuanian strength of character, its designer says.

"For Lithuanians to identify themselves with this perfume, we've added the smell of wood fires that can be associated with pagan rituals, as well as moss and wildflowers," Stongvilas said.

The creation of the perfume has been entrusted to France's Galimard perfume from Grasse on the Riviera which has been in business since 1747. The first thousand bottles were produced for more than a 100,000 litas (28,900 euros, 38,792 dollars).

Lithuanian soldiers deployed in Afghanistan have also received samples. Soon it will be the turn of Lithuanian embassies, hotels and airports.

Scented "Feeling Lithuania" candles are also to go on sale next month while an entire line of products is being designed.

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Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AFP) - Roberto Alomar, a 10-time Gold Glove winner for his fielding, and pitcher Bert Blyleven, fifth on the all-time Major League Baseball strikeout list, were elected Wednesday to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Each narrowly missed being voted into the honor shrine last year but made the 75 percent support rate needed in this year's vote by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Induction ceremonies for the duo and former club executive Pat Gillick, chosen last month by a veterans committee, will be July 24 at the honor shrine in Cooperstown, New York.

Alomar, a Puerto Rican second baseman who was a career .300 hitter and a 12-time All-Star infielder, missed by eight votes in 2010 but was named on 90 percent of ballots this time, getting the nod on 523 of 581 ballots cast.

Alomar, 42, played 17 seasons for San Diego, Baltimore, Toronto, Cleveland, Arizona, the New York Mets and Chicago White Sox before retiring in 2004.

fore retiring in 2004.

Gillick pulled off a trade with San Diego in 1990 to bring Alomar and Joe Carter to Toronto, where they helped the Blue Jays win the 1992 and 1993 World Series.

Alomar is the former boyfriend of retired French tennis star Mary Pierce.

Curveball ace Blyleven, a Dutch-born 59-year-old, was listed on 79.7 percent of ballots in his 14th time on the ballot, one shy of the maximum. He missed out by five votes in 2010 but his 463 votes this time were 27 more than needed.

"It has been 14 years of praying and waiting," Blyleven said. "I would like to thank the Baseball Writers of America for, I'd like to say, finally getting it right."

Blyleven won 287 career victories with 3,701 strikeouts and pitched 60 shutouts while also capturing a pair a World Series titles in a 22-year career. Blyleven is the first purely starting pitcher elected since Nolan Ryan in 1999.

Blyleven pitched for Minnesota, Texas, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and the California Angels. He helped Pittsburgh

win the 1979 World Series and pitched for Minnesota's 1987 World Series winners.

Two sluggers whose careers were marred by doping, Mark McGwire and first-time candidate Rafael Palmeiro, were well off the vote totals needed to book a place in Cooperstown.

McGwire received 115 votes, named on only 19.8 percent of ballots in his fourth season on the ballot but the first since he admitted taking steroids and human growth hormone to help produce record-setting home run totals.

Palmeiro, whose 64 votes represented only 11 percent of ballots, is one of only four players in history with 500 homers and 3,000 hits.

But a failed drug test in 2005 led to a suspension for Palmeiro only months after he wagged his finger at US lawmakers at a Congressional hearing on doping in baseball and said, "I have never used steroids. Period."

"The writers are saying this was the steroids era, like they have kind of done for Mark McGwire," Blyleven said. "They have made their point. It doesn't surprise me."

Bengals agree to contract extension with Lewis as coach

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AFP) - Marvin Lewis will remain as coach of the National Football League's Cincinnati Bengals after signing a contract extension, the team announced on its website Tuesday.

Lewis, whose team went 4-12 this past season, spent the past two days in talks with owner Mike Brown working out a deal that will give him more influence in personnel and staff decisions.

The Bengals have managed only two winning campaigns in the past two decades, both achieved in the eight seasons Lewis has been guiding the team, a span in which the Bengals have gone

60-69 with one drawn.

Cincinnati has not won a playoff game since 1990 and the Bengals have not reached the Super Bowl since 1989, when the lost to San Francisco.

Lewis was a favorite in the locker room, with defensive back Chris Crocker saying Lewis returning gave the club the best chance of making a quick run at becoming an NFL contender.

"That gives us the best opportunity to stay together and finish what we started because everyone knows we have talent in this locker room," Carter said. "We just need to do what we didn't do this year and finish games

next year."

The Bengals lost seven games by a touchdown or less and five defeats came at the hands of teams that qualified for the playoffs.

World record cap holder Lilly retires

CHICAGO (AFP) - American midfielder Kristine Lilly, who set a global football record for men or women with 352 international appearances, announced her retirement on Wednesday at age 39 after a 24-year career.

Lilly finished with 130 goals in international matches, second only to former teammate Mia Hamm in world and US history, and was also second with assists, setting up 105 goals.

"It has been great. There are no regrets," Lilly said. "The opportunities I've had to play with so many great players and be a part of so many great moments has been amazing."

The only player to see action in five Women's World Cups, Lilly also took part in the Olympics three times.

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April date set for Chisora's Klitschko showdown

LONDON (AFP) - British and Commonwealth champion Dereck Chisora will face world heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko on April 30 after last month's bout was called off.

Klitschko, the IBF, WBO and Ring magazine champion, had been due to defend his belts against Chisora on December 11 in Germany until a stomach injury forced him to pull out.

But it was confirmed on Wednesday that the bout is back on and they will meet in Germany in late April.

WBA champion David Haye had been in negotiations with Klitschko over a unification bout and a meeting in April or May was on the agenda, but Wednesday's announcement will delay that fight.

"This news is a fantastic late Christmas present," Chisora said. "I always believed that I would fight Klitschko and my faith has been repaid."

"I was a bit worried that he might try and fight an easier touch, but I think I've earned my opportunity."

"I was gutted when Wladimir pulled out of our fight just a couple of days beforehand. But now I've got another chance to take his titles away."

"He's a great world champion, but his time at the top is well and truly up."

"My promoter Frank Warren has done a great job in getting me this opportunity because there was no guarantee Wladimir would fight me again after he got injured."

Ronaldinho slams AC Milan for slowing Brazil



he would already be playing for his former club in the Brazilian league.

"I'm not up for auction. If it was up to me I'd already be wearing the Gremio jersey even if it means earning less," Ronaldinho told the Globoesporte website.

"The problem isn't the offer that has been made for me but Milan's demands."

Italian daily Gazzetta dello Sport reported Tuesday that the Brazilian had already signed for Gremio where he started his career in 1998.

The sports newspaper claimed Ronaldinho's brother and agent Roberto de Assis had reached an agreement with Gremio, and a meeting was planned Wednesday.

Premier League club Blackburn were also reported to be making a multi-million euro bid to bring the former Barcelona and Paris St Germain forward to England.



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Roddick steamrolls into Brisbane quarters



BRISBANE (AFP) - Second seeded American Andy Roddick steamrolled his way into the quarter-finals of the Brisbane International when he overpowered Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov in straight sets on Wednesday.

Roddick recovered from an early break to clinch a close first set before running away with the second to win 6-4, 6-1.

The American won the tournament as top seed in 2010 and showed enough against Dolgoplov to suggest he was still the man to beat this year.

Roddick used his booming serve to brilliant effect but he was also able to match his opponent in the rallies, often pinning Dolgoplov deep in the court and forcing a host of errors, particularly towards the end of the first set and throughout the second.

The defending champion served 15 aces to Dolgoplov's seven and won 87 per cent of points on his first serve, underlining his dominance.

But he had to work hard to subdue some early brilliance from the Ukrainian.

"I knew that he was aggressive to the point of psychosis at times," Roddick said.

"In the first six games I didn't really do much wrong, but if you're on court and someone decides they are going to hit a winner whatever ball they get on the very first shot, there's not much you can do.

Roddick now takes on fifth seed Marcos Baghdatis after the Cypriot disposed of Poland's Lukasz Kubot 6-2, 6-2.

Meanwhile, two more seeds fell in the second round.

Radek Stepanek continued his love affair with the Pat Rafter Arena when he downed fourth seeded American Mardy Fish, the Czech winning 6-3, 6-1.

Stepanek, who won the title in 2009 and was runner up to Roddick last year, now goes on to play seventh seeded German Florian Mayer in the quarter-finals.

Earlier South Africa's towering Kevin Anderson blasted 15 aces on his way to a 6-3, 6-1 upset of sixth seeded Spaniard Feliciano Lopez.

The 203-centimetre tall Anderson has now fired down 33 aces over two rounds.

In other matches, Germany's Benjamin Becker, who on Tuesday beat third seed Fernando Verdasco, was

brought back to earth by Santiago Giraldo, the Colombian winning 6-3, 6-4.

Mayer beat Lithuanian qualifier Richard Berankis 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Angry star pays price for Twitter rant

LONDON (AFP) - Marvin Morgan, a striker with English League Two side Aldershot, has been placed on the transfer list after claiming he wants his club's fans to die.

Morgan launched his astonishing rant after being booed by Aldershot supporters when he was substituted following a lacklustre display in Monday's 2-1 defeat against Hereford.

The 27-year-old, who has spent his career mostly playing at non-league level, used his account on the micro-blogging website Twitter to hit back at the fans and clearly let his emotions get the better of him.

"Like to thank the fans who booed me off the pitch. Where's that going to get you! I hope you all die," he wrote.

Aldershot were furious with Morgan's outburst and punished him with an immediate suspension, a fine of two weeks' wages and put him on the transfer list.

Crosby tops fan-elected NHL All-Star choices



NEW YORK (AFP) - Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby, the National Hockey League's leading scorer, won fan balloting announced Tuesday that decided the first six players in the NHL All-Star Game on January 30.

Crosby, who has scored 32 goals in 40 games this season, was among four Penguins players named to the All-Star lineup, joined by teammates Evgeni Malkin, Kris Letang and goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury.

Jonathan Toews and Duncan Keith of the reigning Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks were the other players chosen in balloting that ended Monday night.

The other 36 All-Stars will

be revealed next Tuesday. The talent pool will then nominate captains and alternates that will select sides for the annual exhibition match, to be played at Raleigh, North Carolina.

This is the first time the unique "choose sides" format has been used and it could produce another showdown between the NHL's two superstar players, Canadian Crosby and Russian playmaker Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals.

Ovechkin's Capitals defeated the Penguins 3-1 on New Year's Day in the NHL's Winter Classic outdoor game before nearly 70,000 spectators in an American football stadium in Pittsburgh.

The game drew the largest NHL regular-season US television viewership in 35 years and the chance for an All-Star version of the "Sid versus Ovie" matchup might be too much for players to pass up.

Crosby received 635,509 votes with Toews second among forwards with 407,676 and Malkin third on 376,887. Fleury led goalies with 426,305 while write-in candidate Letang paced defensemen at 477,960 with Keith next at 382,162.

Crosby scored the winning goal in over-time for Canada at last year's Vancouver Winter Olympics final to give the hosts the gold medal over the United States.



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Nadal, Federer struggle into Qatar Open quarters



Federer's survival against Chiudinelli followed a knife-edge recovery in saving three successive set points in his opening encounter against Thomas Schoorel, the Dutch qualifier, before progressing similarly in two tight sets.

"Playing such a good friend is so rare for me," Federer said. "And seeing him maybe having an injury as well, and feeling bad for him, and hopeful that he's not going to have another injury, was really difficult.

Federer will next face Viktor Troicki, a member of the Serbian team which won the Davis Cup in Belgrade last month and who reached the last eight with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Teimuraz Gabashvili of Russia.

Nadal's next opponent is

Ernests Gulbis, the dangerously talented Latvian who overwhelmed Antonio Veic, a Croatian qualifier, by 6-3, 6-1, and who will probably enjoy recalling memories of troubling Federer in a three-set quarter-final battle here last year.

Philipp Kohlschreiber, the eighth-seeded German, was beaten 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/4) by Ivo Karlovic, the six-foot ten-inch Croatian whose serve descends from steeper angles than any player on the tour.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga continued his comeback from a knee injury by reaching the quarter-finals with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Sergei Bubka, the son of Olympic gold medal pole vaulter Sergey Bubka.

Too many games in football, Blatter says

PARIS (AFP) - FIFA chief Sepp Blatter wants smaller domestic leagues and fewer games to boost international level football.

In an interview on the FIFA website, Blatter said that the increasingly-charged calendar for world football was a major issue of concern for him.

"In my view, and this is something on which (UEFA chief) Michel Platini agrees, domestic championships are too long because there are too many teams and too many matches," he said.

"Teams in leagues with 20 clubs play 38 games, on top of which they also have national cup competitions and league cups, etc.

"This also creates a conflict of interest between national teams and clubs, some of whom complain that their players come back tired or injured. That's not the fault of the international calendar, however, and it's a subject that ought to be discussed."

The question of domestic league schedules has come under the spotlight following the recent shock awarding of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar where summer temperatures can soar well over 40 degrees.

Out of concern for players and fans alike, there have subsequently been calls for the tournament to be played

during the winter which would inevitably clash with the domestic league fixtures.

Blatter also spoke about what role would be played by the Task Force Football 2014

he set up to look into various aspects of the game.

"Its objective is to assess tournaments and the way in which the game is organised.



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